

surveys distributed, 1,500 (21.4%) were returned by the August cutoff date. Surveys received after the cutoff date were not included in the percentages quoted in the issue areas= BACKGROUND discussion that follows, however the Planning Department continued reviewing surveys received tracking trends and opinions. A copy of the survey form with percentages is included as APPENDIX 3.

Responses to the opinion survey provide an important source of information to Town decision-makers in the formulation of policies regarding future growth and development. In addition, responses can help identify growth issues which appear to have an especially high level of significance to the citizenry. Because the survey occurs during the land use plan update process, such issues received special attention and further investigation during the preparation of the Land Use Plan Update.

The opinion survey is only one source of information Town decision-makers have available to them in formulating growth policies. As with any effort to gauge public opinions or attitudes, readers of survey responses should avoid using the results legalistically or accepting them as absolute. Readers must weigh the results in combination with other information, as well as with their own knowledge of Kill Devil Hills. The survey instrument was not developed to be an infallible scientific measuring tool. Moreover, it was distributed to all tax payers, regardless of whether they live in Town or out. Local versus out of towners views were not separated. Local versus out of towners views were not weighted. Many of those returning surveys did not complete all questions in the instrument, thus only the views of those responding to a question are reflected in the percentages quoted in the pages that follow.

Most of the policies and implementation strategies that follow were included in whole or in part in the 1993 Update. An analysis of the Town=s efforts to implement the policies included in the 1993 Update is included, where applicable, in the respective land use issues= BACKGROUND sections.

2. Timing of Implementation

The Board of Commissioners and Planning Board meet annually in a joint workshop to discuss planning goals and planning related work items. Notwithstanding re-prioritization of policy issue areas or rescheduling of implementation strategies necessitated by changes in development patterns, State or Federal mandates, or local objectives, the policies that follow will be implemented on an on-going basis or by the end of